GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2357
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2001
COAL INDUSTRY
RENU KUMARI SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in "Dainik Hindustan" dated July 6 , 2001 captioned 'Koyala Udyog Jharkhand aur Bhavishya Ki chintayen';

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check corruption and malpractices in coal industry; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to reduce the import in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is annexed.

(c) The following steps are continuously being taken by CIL to check corruption:-

(i) Rotational transfer of officers/employees working in sensitive posts.

(ii) Periodical inspections, both regular and surprise, in sensitive areas.

(iii) Post scrutiny of files etc.

(iv) Scrutiny of property returns.

(d) Import of coal in under Open General License. Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality non-coking coal on account of inadequate availability of such coal from indigenous sources. With present level of customs duty and railway freight structure, imported coal becomes competitive per unit of calorific value at certain locations.

Statement referred to in reply to part (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2357 for reply on 7.8.2001 .

Statement showing matters reported in the news item captioned 'Koyala Udyog Jharkhand aur Bhavishya Ki chintayen' andthe reaction of the Government thereto

S.N	Matters reported in the news item	Reaction of the Government
1.	About 2 crores 60 lakh tonnes of coal is imported from abroad every year and as a result, dependence of	During 2000-01, 21.56 million tonnes (provisional) of coal (12.25 MTs of coking coal and 9.31 MTs of non-coking coal) was imported. Good quality

our country on imports is increasing. being imported due to non-availability/inadequate availability from indigenous sources.	coking coal and superior quality non-coking coal are	
2. It points to a dangerous situation that to meet its energy requirements, the country is becoming increasingly dependent on imports from countries which are not even on friendly terms. This will lead to closure of coal industry in general and BCCL in particular.	The country is largely self sufficient in so far as coal as a source of energy is concerned. The total coal production in the country during 2000-01 was 309.63 million tonnes (provisional), against which the total import was of the order of 21.56 million tonnes only. Thus, imports only supplement the indigenous production to meet the specific requirements of certain sectors for superior quality of coal.	
3. The ownership of coal mines should be in the hands of people of Jharkhand, instead of the so called leaders, coal mafia and officials.	Under the existing legal framework, Government companies or undertakings of the Jharkhand State Government can also undertake coal mining. Permissions have been granted to a few State Government Corporations to do coal mining. The Jharkhand Government can also follow this route.	
4. The workers should also realize their responsibility. Just as they agitate for their personal demands, they should launch similar campaigns against the corrupt elements and mafia.	The workers have played a significant role in the rapid growth achieved by the coal industry since nationalisation. The Government have also taken various measures to safeguard the interests of the workers. In a more competitive regime, the managements and the workers will have to work with greater synergy.	
5. Situation can be improved. Old railway lines, sidings etc., which are no longer in use, can be removed; and rivers, jores and nullahs can be diverted and about 60 crores tonnes of coal lying underneath can be extracted.	In BCCL, first phase diversion of Sulunga jore has already been done and a detailed study for examining the possibility of diverting the rivers and nullahs passing over the coal bearing areas of BCCL is being done jointly by CMPDIL and BCCL. The quantity of coal reserves to be realised by such diversion can only be assessed after completion of the study. Re-alignment of Dhanbad-Patherdih Railway line over non-coal bearing areas has been taken up with the railway authorities.	
6. If BCCL has to improve, it should draw up its production plan for next five years and clearly demarcate the land required for this purpose.	BCCL has already prepared a production plan for the next five years.	
7 Residents from the	Persons affected by mining	

areas affected by coal mining should be shifted to alternative location.

operations are being shifted to new colonies/townships constructed over non-coal bearing areas where all amenities are provided. Rehabilitation of some critical areas affected by fire and subsidence was earlier approved by a Committee constituted for this purpose by the erstwhile Bihar State.

8. BCCL should have an agreement with the land losers to the effect that the land taken on lease for coal mining will be handed over to them in better condition after 30 years.

At present, land is not being acquired on lease by BCCL. Disposal of lands acquired under the various Acts will be governed by the provisions of those statutes.

9. One major problem affecting the coal industry is the theft of coal. If there is a will, not only theft can be prevented, but this can also provide employment to a large number of youth, by encouraging them to form cooperatives.

Coal companies have taken necessary measures to curb theft/pilferage of coal by strengthening security through intensive patrolling by security personnel of coal companies and CISF. Matter has also been discussed with the State Administration. Distribution of coal to consumers is being made through linkage system at present. Coal supply to cooperatives of unemployed youths can be considered only after formation of such cooperatives and with specific recommendations of the State Governments.

10. To initiate aforesaid measures, it is necessary that people from different political parties forget their political affiliations and work jointly towards resolving the problems of the coal industry.

The Government always endeavors to build up a consensus over all important issues. The problems of the coal sector are also discussed with the representatives of political parties in the Parliamentary Committees, such as the Consultative Committee, the Standing Committee on Energy etc.